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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Chaplain Scott Crosley, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord, today we pray for productivity, for purpose and for passion. We ask, Lord, for Your encouragement for those who need it, for Your direction for those who need it, and for Your discernment for those who need it.

Your word promises that "he who stands firm to the end will be saved." Today, I pray for the leaders in this room, that You, Lord, would help them to stand firm in You. Help their dependence to be upon You and their persuasion to reflect You.

As it reads in Ephesians, chapter 3: "I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His spirit in your inner being."

It is in His name that I pray Rakkasan and Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING CHAPLAIN SCOTT CROSLLEY

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Chaplain Scott Crosley of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) for delivering today's opening prayer. Chaplain Crosley serves as the battalion chaplain for the First Battalion 187th Infantry Regiment, the "Leader Rakkasans."

These soldiers only recently returned to Fort Campbell from Iraq. While they were deployed in Iraq, I had the opportunity to visit them at forward-operating base Summerall. The Leader Rakkasans engaged in close combat with insurgent and terrorist enemies. They worked to train Iraqi army and police units, and they continued the work of building Iraqi civil society to offer a better future to the next generation of Iraqis.

Chaplain Crosley came to the Army late in life, moving his family from his native California and heeding a call to tend to the spiritual and emotional needs of soldiers at war.

In this time of deployment, his efforts helped soldiers deal with the stress of combat, separation from their loved ones and, above all, the loss of nine brother warriors in action.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Chaplain Crosley and the soldiers of the 101st Airborne for their great service to our great Nation.

END THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, one week ago, the American people sent a message to this Congress; that message had to do with Iraq. Were the American people asking us to send more troops? No, they want the troops to come home. Were they looking to expand the war? No, they want to end the war.

There is only one way to end this war: cut off funds. The White House

doesn't believe Congress will exercise this power. That is why the President is determined to stay in Iraq through the end of his term. He may have let go of Rumsfeld, but he is not going to let go of the war. The President is trapped, trapped by lies, fabricated intelligence, pretensions to empire, desire for oil and prophetic illusions.

The truth shall set the President and the Congress free; the truth that it was wrong to go into Iraq. It is wrong to stay there. It is time to bring our troops home. It is time to get the world community involved in a transition to help secure the Iraqi people. The truth is we broke Iraq, but we can't fix it by staying. We can fix it only by admitting we were wrong and paying for reconstruction financially but not with the lives of our brave troops.

It is time to cut off the funds; time to end the war against Iraq; time to bring our troops home; time for a new energy policy; time to reconnect with the world; time for hope, not fear.

WHY THANKSGIVING DAY?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, in 1621, the Pilgrims held a 3-day festival giving thanks to the Lord for a bountiful harvest. They celebrated with the Indians, who had also suffered through a previously hard winter. This feast would become the birth of our national holiday of Thanksgiving.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt made the fourth Thursday of November the official Thanksgiving day, which we celebrate Thursday next. For the first 150 years, Thanksgiving was celebrated whenever the Colonists believed it was necessary to do so. President George Washington stated in the first Thanksgiving proclamation authorized by Congress in 1789: "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to be grateful

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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